

# Citizens' Perspectives on Poverty in Edinburgh: Consequences and Solutions

Part 1: Attitudinal Survey  
A Report for the Edinburgh Poverty Commission  
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The whole research team reviewed the report, but particular thanks must be given to Laura Robertson and Stephen Campbell who were responsible for profiling the extracts shared in section 6 of this report, and to Fiona McHardy of the Poverty Alliance for proof reading.

SPIRU Student Researchers both reviewed the draft survey and identified Facebook groups based in Edinburgh neighbourhoods that we approached and asked to share the survey among their members. We are grateful to these list holders, but also to each of the student researchers for their assistance, i.e. Alice Liza Charlotte Bouvet-Garnier, Fraser George Cairns, Sean Alexander Davies, Aileen Jane Hunter, Catherine McComish, Erin McGuckin, Christina McKelvie, Morgan Esther McKenzie, Rebecca McKeown, Leia Gillian McKie, Emma McKillop, Shannon McNulty, Richard Montgomery, Courtney Pauline Nichol, Calum Peddie, Amy Senior, and Taryn Hannah Gavina Toovey.

Finally, Shaun McPhee, then a SPIRU researcher, was instrumental in the development of the survey and sharing the survey in Edinburgh.

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# Introduction to this Summary Report

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This report seeks to inform the work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, an independent group launched in November 2018 that seeks to work in a collaborative manner to identify the steps needed to end poverty in Edinburgh. One of the specific aims of the Commission is to “listen to learn from the voices of citizens in Edinburgh who are struggling to get by”. This report contributes to that goal, but also extends its reach to engage the broader population who are not struggling to get by, but who live and/or work in the city.

We shared an online survey over a seven-week period, ending January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. This survey comprised a combination of closed and open-ended questions, some of which replicated those used in the British Social Attitudes Survey, allowing what the people of Edinburgh think to be compared to what the wider population of Scotland and Great Britain. We used a range of approaches to reach out to citizens in Edinburgh, receiving 728 responses from a survey population that was representative of the Edinburgh population in terms of the socio-economic profile of where they live in the city (the respondent profile closely matched the city profile, according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) and the economic activity status of respondents. However, to strengthen the evidence base, we weighted the results to ensure that they also represented the city’s demographic profile (age and gender, in addition to deprivation area status). We generated headline findings for the city as a whole, and then explored differences among the people of Edinburgh. We identified those differences that were statistically and substantively significant. We then re-examined the data to determine which of these differences were the ‘drivers of difference’ among the people of Edinburgh. Before drawing conclusions and reaching recommendations, we reviewed the open-ended comments to ensure that we took account of what else the people of Edinburgh considered to be important if we are to understand the consequences and devise local solutions to tackle poverty in Edinburgh.

We summarise this work over four sections

- Ten key findings
- Ten recommendations
- Our findings in charts
- Your Edinburgh in your words

A longer version of this report is available on request.

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# Ten Main Messages

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The Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit and the Poverty Alliance were commissioned by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission to explore experiences and attitudes towards poverty in Edinburgh. Part of this work involved finding out what the people of Edinburgh think about poverty in their city. We achieved this through a survey that reports from a representative sample of the city's population. The report that follows provides a fuller account. Here, we describe our evidence base; summarise the key findings under ten headings; and present ten recommendations.

**1. Tackling poverty is important:** 91% of respondents stated that it was “very important” to tackle poverty in Edinburgh. Less than 2% thought that it was “not very important” or “unimportant”.

**2. Poverty is present in Edinburgh:** 84% of respondents stated that there was “quite a lot” of poverty in Edinburgh. The vast majority of the remainder (14%) considered that there was “some” poverty in Edinburgh. Less than 2% thought that there was either “none” or “very little” poverty in Edinburgh.

**3. A collective effort:** On average, respondents identified five bodies (from a list of nine), which they considered to be responsible for tackling poverty in Edinburgh.

- **Government.** There was strong support for all levels of government taking responsibility for tackling poverty in Edinburgh, i.e. Scottish Government (97%), City of Edinburgh Council (94%) and UK Government (88%). This was reinforced when opinion was expressed on who was most responsible for tackling poverty, with more than nine out of every ten people identifying a level of government as being most responsible, i.e. Scottish Government (38%), UK Government (36%) and the City of Edinburgh Council (17%).
- **Local Businesses and Employers.** Significantly, more than half of respondents considered that local businesses and employers had a responsibility toward tackling poverty locally (57%). The proportion of those according a role for business was higher than for voluntary organisations and community groups (52%), Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership (50%) and NHS Lothian (31%).
- **Personal and Familial Responsibility.** Although a significant ‘minority’ opinion, relatively fewer respondents considered ‘people experiencing poverty’ (35%) or ‘friends/relatives of people experiencing poverty’ (26%) should be responsible for tackling poverty. On the other hand, a small minority considered that people experiencing poverty were most responsible for tackling poverty (5%).

**4. A complex problem:** On average, respondents identified nine reasons for people living in poverty in Edinburgh.

- **Work Doesn't Pay Enough.** The most common explanation provided for poverty in Edinburgh (86% of respondents) was the belief that work did not pay enough. This explanation was reinforced when respondents were asked to identify the most important reasons; 25% considered this to be the most important reason for poverty in Edinburgh.
- **Disability in the Household.** A similar proportion of respondents (83%) cited disability as a contributory factor, although this was not considered to be the main reason by many (less than 1%).
- **Inequality.** Although five other factors were considered by more people to contribute to poverty in Edinburgh, inequality was the reason that was considered to be the main reason by most people (27% considered inequalities to be the main reason for poverty in Edinburgh, while 73% considered it to be a contributory factor).
- **Other contributory factors were identified by the majority, including:**
  - **Alcoholism, drug abuse or other addictions (79%).** Interestingly, only 4% considered this to be the main cause of poverty in Edinburgh – this stands in sharp contrast to prevailing attitudes in Scotland/UK, in which this is considered to be the most important single reason for poverty.
  - **Inadequacy of social benefits.** Social benefits not paying enough (69%) and 'lack of entitlement to social benefits and not being able to work' (65%).
  - **Cannot access affordable housing (79%).** Interestingly, more people in Edinburgh (than Scotland/GB as a whole) seems to perceive this to be a particular problem in Edinburgh.
  - **Structural problems.** In addition to inequalities, discrimination was identified by the majority as a reason (61%).
- **Other clusters of reasons were found to have dimensions with majority support and others with minority support:**
  - **Family matters.** Family break-up or loss of a family member (76%), generational pattern (40%), and too many children in the family (19%).
  - **Other work-related reasons.** Adults being out of work for a long time (64%), adults not wanting to work (29%), and adults not working enough hours (26%).
- **Geographical factors were 'only' supported by a (not-insignificant) minority.** Living in a poor-quality area (41%).

**5. A multi-faceted approach to tackling poverty.** No single strategic approach garnered support for what should be the 'main goal' of tackling poverty in Edinburgh.

- **Facilitating change.** Two fifths of respondents considered that "improving the chances of people to escape poverty" should be the main strategic goal of tackling poverty in Edinburgh (37%). The next most favoured goal was "directly reducing the number of people living in poverty" (33%).

## 6. Poverty is a localised problem in the city of Edinburgh:

- **Local incidence.** Almost four fifths of respondents reported a significant amount of poverty in their local area, with 36% reporting “quite a lot” and 43% reporting “some”. One in five reported that there was “very little” poverty in their area (19%).
- **Bigger problem in Edinburgh beyond their neighbourhood.** Notwithstanding that the majority reported a significant local presence, recognition was given that poverty was more prevalent elsewhere (50%), with a further 28% considering that poverty in their local area was comparable to other parts of Edinburgh.

**7. Local issues:** The open-ended responses that amplified the responses to fixed-response questions highlighted that there are a number of issues that might be considered to be particularly important in the local context of Edinburgh. Of note were the following:

- **High cost of living in Edinburgh.**
- **Concern with the lack of affordable housing.**
- **Sense that the city functions for the benefit of elites, visitors and shorter-term residents.**
- **City divided between core and periphery.**
- **National government is failing, but the City of Edinburgh Council still has some responsibility for tackling poverty in the city.**
- **Work must be rewarded with adequate pay.**
- **There are many examples of positive local action.**
- **There is a strong commitment to make Edinburgh a better city.**
- **Action needs to be more collaborative and better co-ordinated.**
- **People with experience of poverty need to be involved in decision-making (not only listened to).**

**8. An Edinburgh viewpoint?** For many issues, the key finding was a shared viewpoint among the people of Edinburgh. This is most notable in terms of views on (i) the importance of tackling poverty; (ii) awareness of how much poverty is present in Edinburgh; (iii) some of the reasons that contribute toward poverty; and (iv) the importance of all levels of Government in tackling poverty. On the other hand, there are issues for which opinion is more fractured and there are some significant differences of opinion among groups. Although these differences of opinion tend to be more of a matter of variations in the extent to which there is agreement, rather than fundamentally different opinions, it is important to note that:

- **Experience conditions attitudes.** Those who encounter poverty more often and with more personal experience of poverty are more empathetic toward people experiencing poverty. However, it must be stressed that there is a broad base of support for measures to tackle poverty in Edinburgh, regardless of experience.
- **The self-employed.** Although this should only be regarded as a speculative conclusion – given the low number of respondents who were self-employed – the outlook of the self-employed differed significantly to others in Edinburgh; preferring anti-poverty strategies that offered opportunities for people to help themselves, rather than focusing on lifting people directly out of poverty.

## **9. A collective, rather than a personal, experience:**

- **Personal experience.** The majority of respondents reported that they had never experienced poverty in their lives (60%). Only 6% reported that they were currently living in poverty. Consistent with previous research, people in Edinburgh seem to be less likely to identify themselves as living in poverty, when compared to evidence of levels of poverty in Edinburgh.
- **Direct experience.** Two thirds of respondents reported that they encountered poverty in Edinburgh on a daily basis, with 30% reporting that they “see a lot” of poverty every day and 38% reporting that they “see some” poverty every day.

**10. Interest in the work of the Commission:** More than one half of the respondents to the survey indicated that they wanted to find out more about the work of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission (55%).

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# Our Ten Recommendations

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**1. Be bold:** Four fifths of Edinburgh’s citizens believe that it is ‘very important’ to tackle poverty and that there is ‘quite a lot’ of poverty in the city. There is a strong mandate for a bold approach to tackle poverty in Edinburgh.

**2. Be progressive:** There is widespread belief that Edinburgh is not meeting the needs of all of its citizens, and that the way in which the city functions exacerbates rather than tackles inequality. Working towards a less divided Edinburgh would appear to be strongly supported by the majority of its citizens.

**3. Focus on making Edinburgh a city for citizens:** Although citizens are proud of their city and although many recognise the positive value tourism, festivals and higher education, there is a desire to rebalance the city focus to deal more directly with the pressing concerns of its most disadvantaged. At least, this must start with the recognition that many are not benefitting from significant investment and contemporary development in the city.

**4. Engage and mobilise lived experience:** Involving those with lived experience – both those living with poverty and those working with those who are living with poverty – should be valued not only ‘in principle’; there is much to be learned from the those encountering poverty that will improve decision-making and increase the likelihood of achieving positive outcomes through solutions that are a ‘better fit’ to need.

**5. Explore the significance of the ‘Edinburgh cost of living’:** Living in Edinburgh is reported to be beyond the means of many, including those in full-time employment. It would be useful to think of ways in which the city can become more affordable to its citizens and to consider whether there is a need for consider the merits of an ‘Edinburgh living wage’, as a tool to understand affordability, if not to enable everyday living in the city.

**6. Understand experience, but acknowledge that commitment to tackle poverty extends beyond those living in poverty:** In many ways, those who have experienced poverty differed in their understanding of issues, when compared to the majority who have not. However, further work should recognise the tendency toward consensus and share opinion on poverty in Edinburgh; the majority of those not experiencing poverty, are supportive of action to tackle it.



**7. Acknowledge consensus, without ignoring minority positions:** The self-employed emerged as an interesting group, with some opinions that were outliers in relation to majority opinion. To a lesser extent, differences of opinion were notable among private sector workers (compared to those working in the Third/public sectors). Although it would be unhelpful to overstate these differences, there is a need to better understand the thoughts of those working outwith the sectors traditionally understood to be closer to those experiencing poverty.

**8. Focus on affordable housing:** There is local concern over the extent to which housing is meeting everyone's needs in Edinburgh. The unintended and adverse consequences of contemporary developments need to be addressed, both in terms of changing perception that Edinburgh's investment is prioritising the needs of its most disadvantaged citizens and in terms of making city living more affordable to more of its people.

**9. Focus on making work pay:** There is local consternation that work is not rewarding everyone and that too many of Edinburgh's workers are not attaining a wage that allows them to live life to a decent standard, let alone escape poverty. More needs to be done by those responsible for the labour market in Edinburgh to ensure that work delivers adequate remuneration.

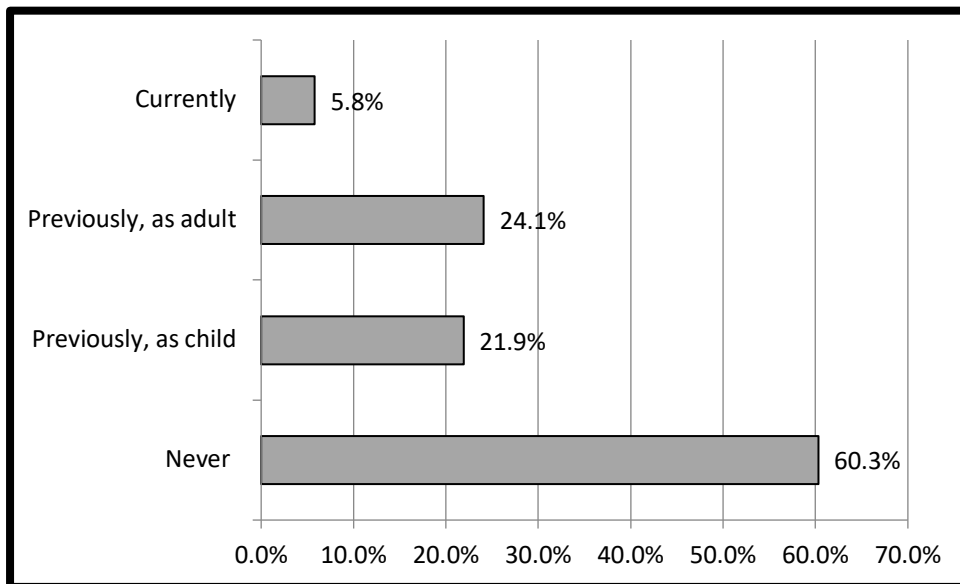
**10. Make it everyone's business:** Respondents conveyed a commitment to Edinburgh and a strong desire to make Edinburgh a better city, by tackling inequality and poverty. It is clear that this is conceived as a city-wide effort, although responsibility for leading this work may rest with the City of Edinburgh Council (or some other city collective). Scotland's city of business should make it its business to tackle poverty. This will only be achieved through an effective collaborative, with a shared vision and a collective sense of purpose. However, everyone should understand what is within their reach to address and take the steps required to do what is necessary within their domain and with their resources to contribute to eradication of poverty in the city.

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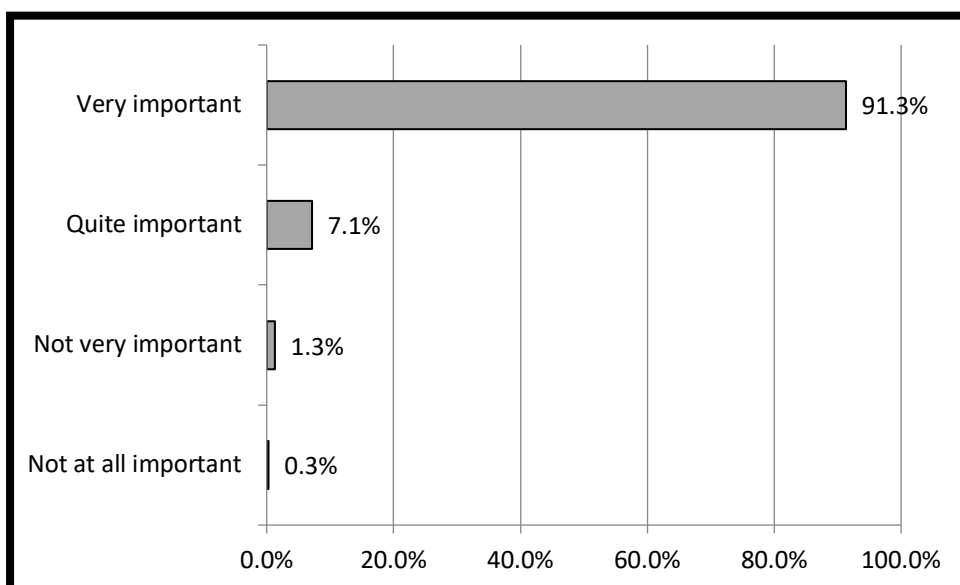
# Our Findings in Tables and Charts

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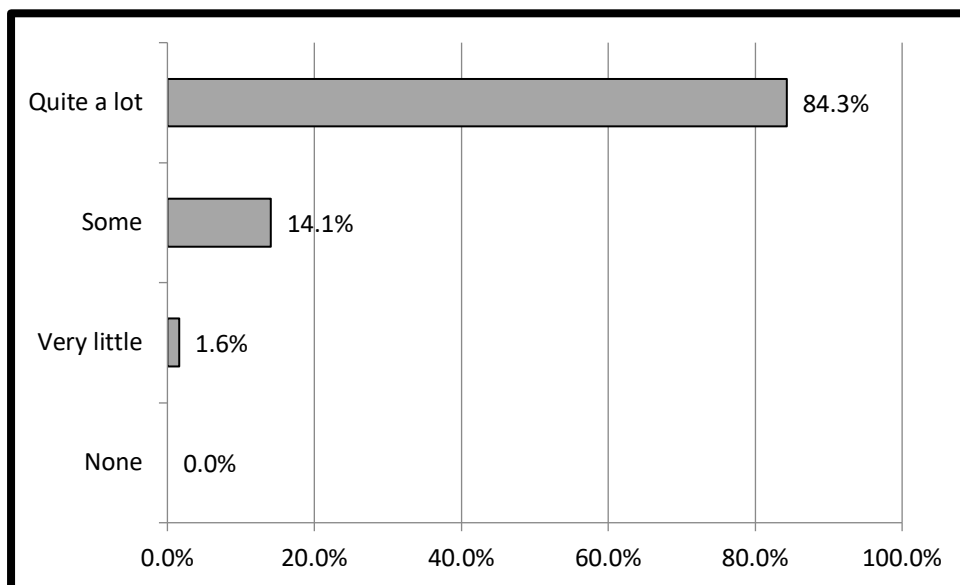
**Figure 1: Self-assessment of Poverty Over the Lifecourse, Edinburgh residents 2020**



**Figure 2: How important do the people of Edinburgh think it is to tackle poverty in Edinburgh, 2020**



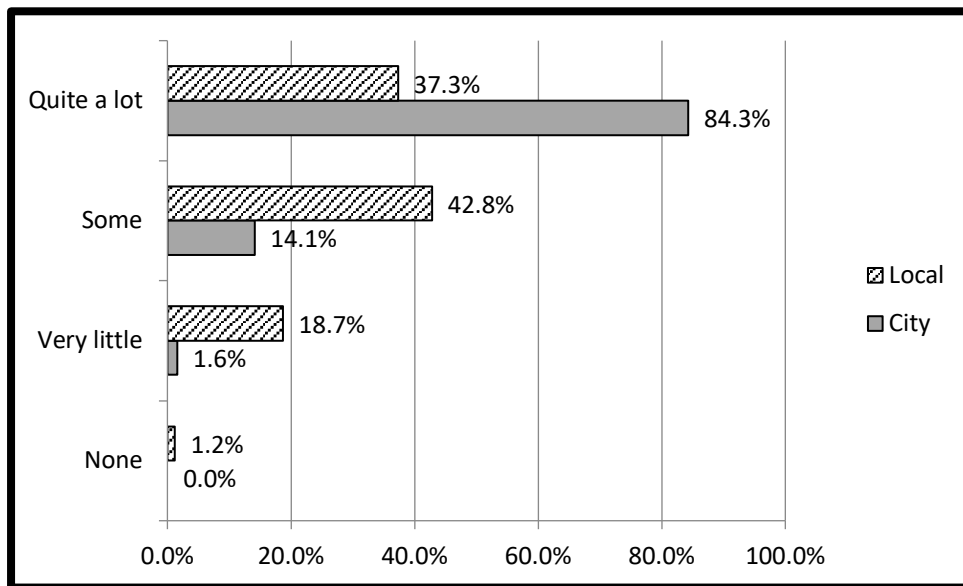
**Figure 3: How much poverty do the people of Edinburgh think is in their city, 2020**



**Table 1: The importance of tackling poverty in Edinburgh, by perceptions of how much poverty is in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020.**

<i>Table percentages</i>			
<b>How important to tackle poverty in Edinburgh</b>			
<b>How much poverty in Edinburgh</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Not 'very important'</b>	<i>Cases</i>
<b>Not 'quite a lot'</b>	9.9%	5.8%	83
<b>Quite a lot</b>	81.3%	3.0%	443
<i>Cases</i>	479	47	525

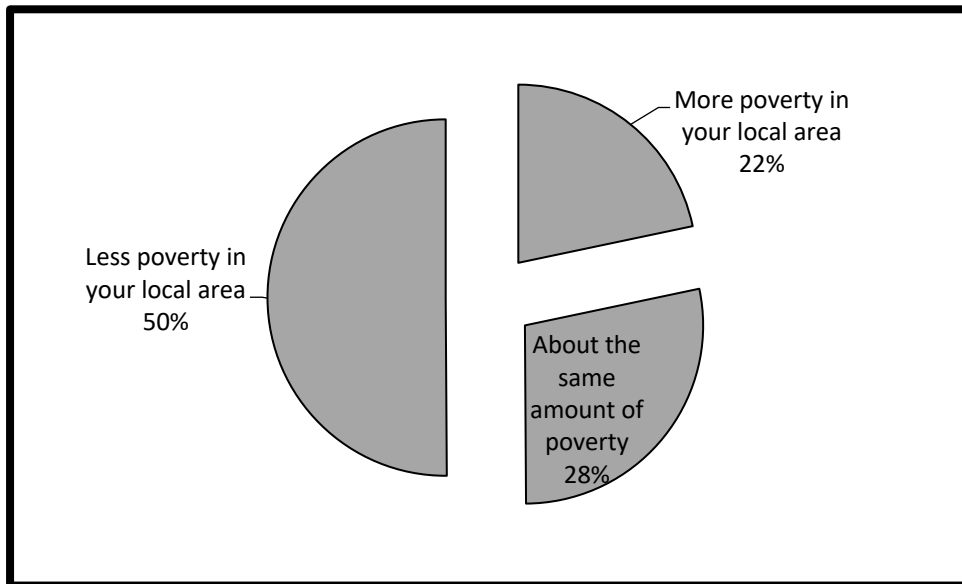
**Figure 4: How much poverty do the people of Edinburgh think is in their local area and city as a whole, 2020**



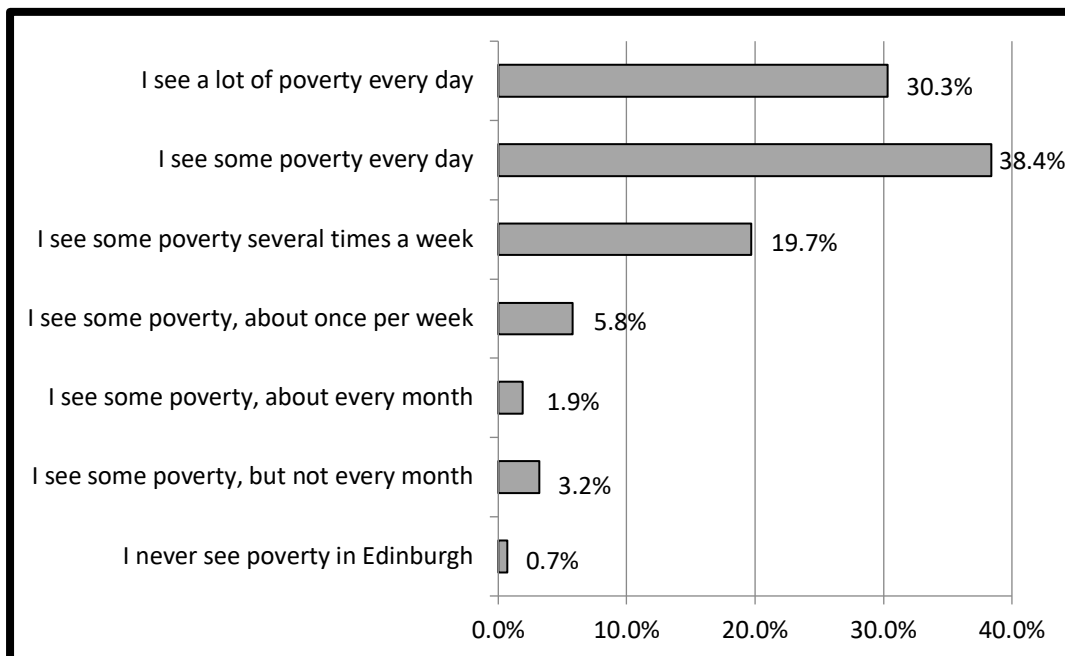
**Table 2: The importance of tackling poverty in Edinburgh, by perceptions of how much poverty is in their local area, Edinburgh residents 2020.**

<i>Table percentages</i>			
<b>How important to tackle poverty in Edinburgh</b>			
<b>How much poverty in LOCAL area</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Not 'very important'</b>	<i>Cases</i>
<b>None or very little</b>	14.0%	6.0%	104
<b>Some</b>	40.2%	2.6%	224
<b>Quite a lot</b>	37.0%	0.3%	196
<i>Cases</i>	478	46	525

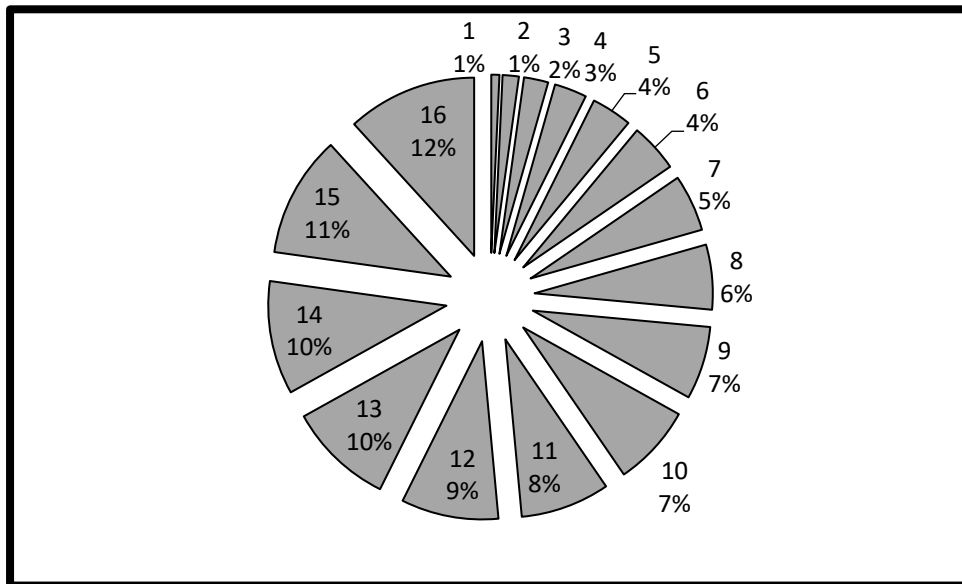
**Figure 5: How does poverty in their local area, compare to the rest of Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



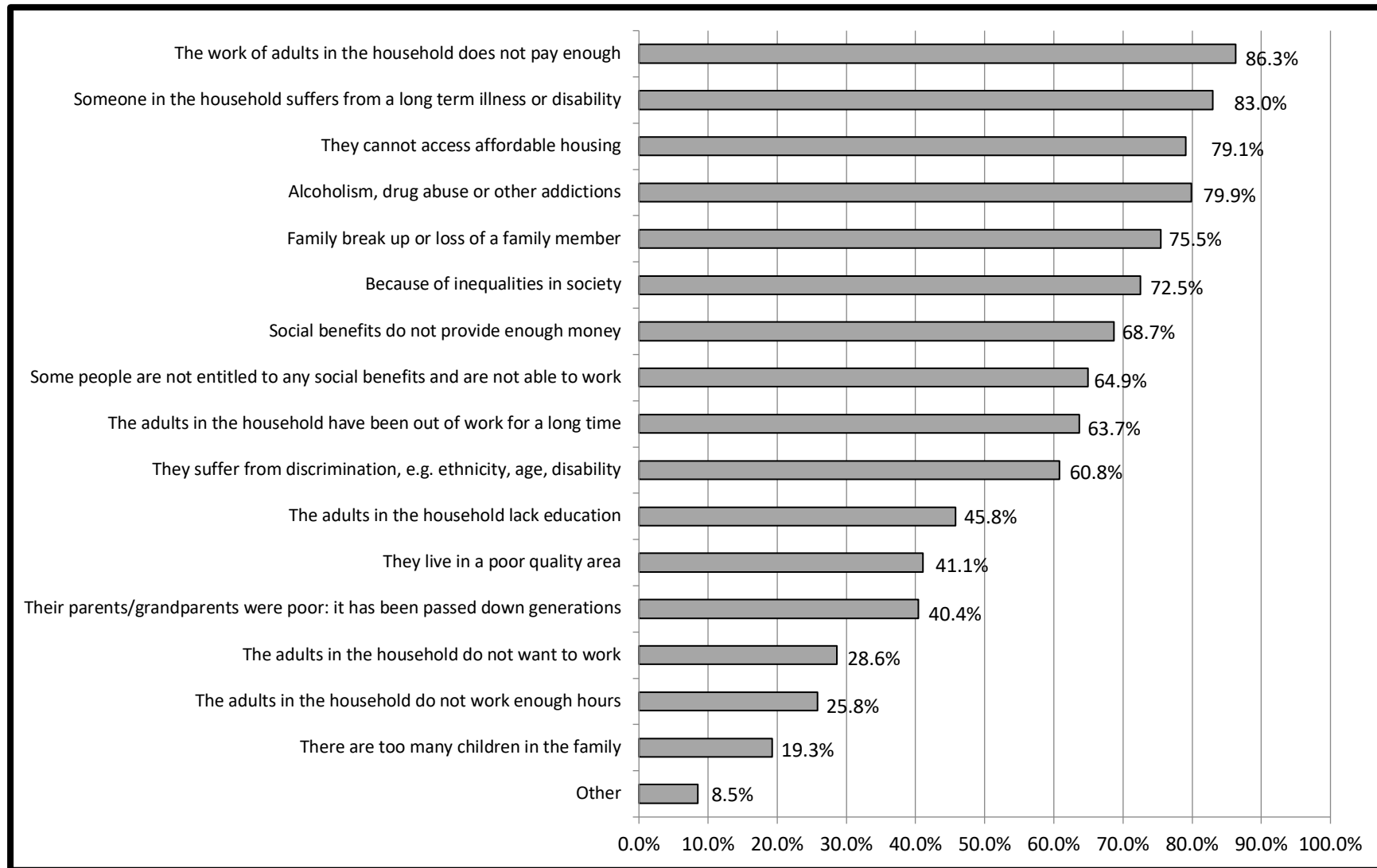
**Figure 6: How much poverty do you encounter in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



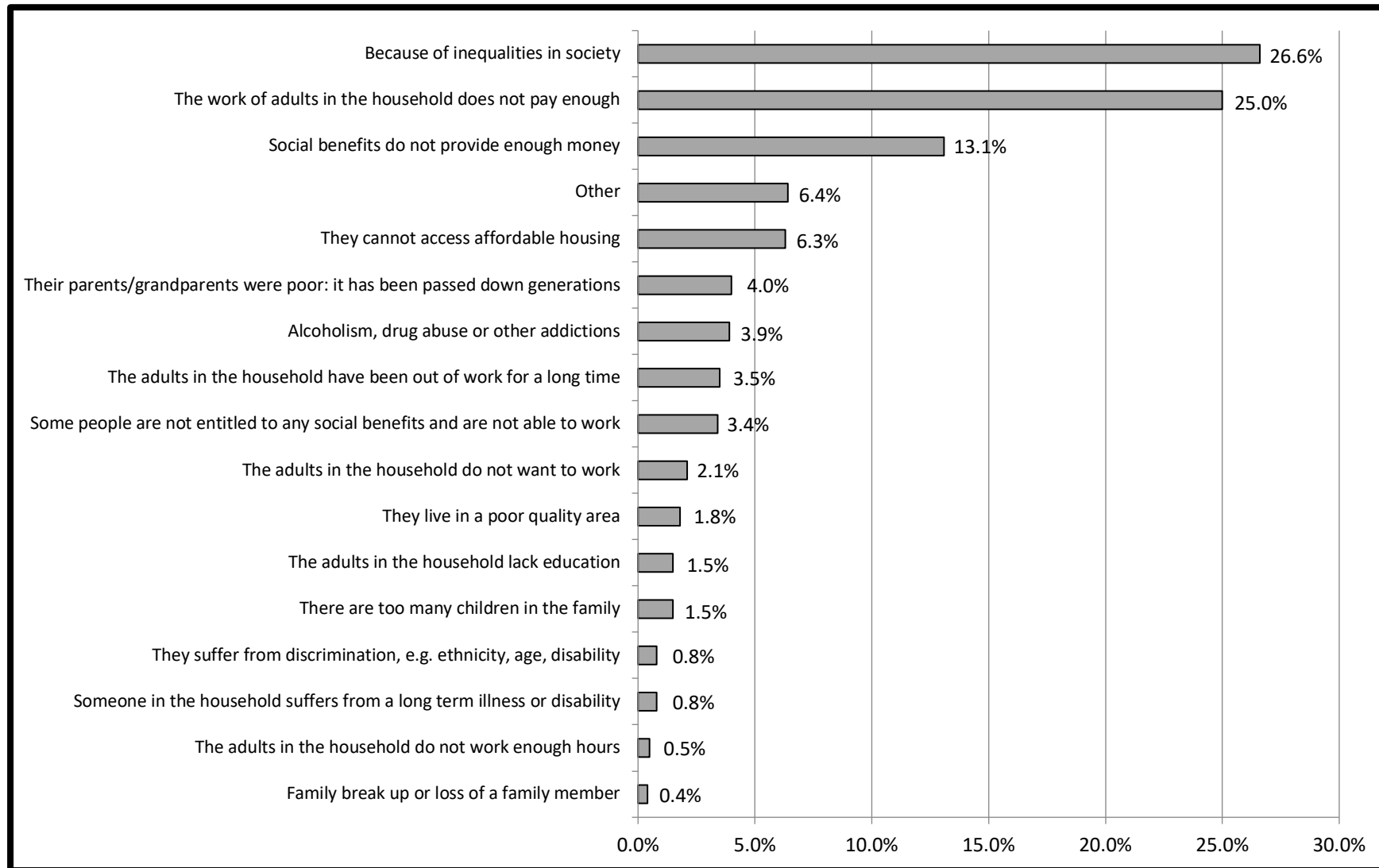
**Figure 7: How many reasons were provided to explain poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



**Figure 8: Reasons that explain poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**

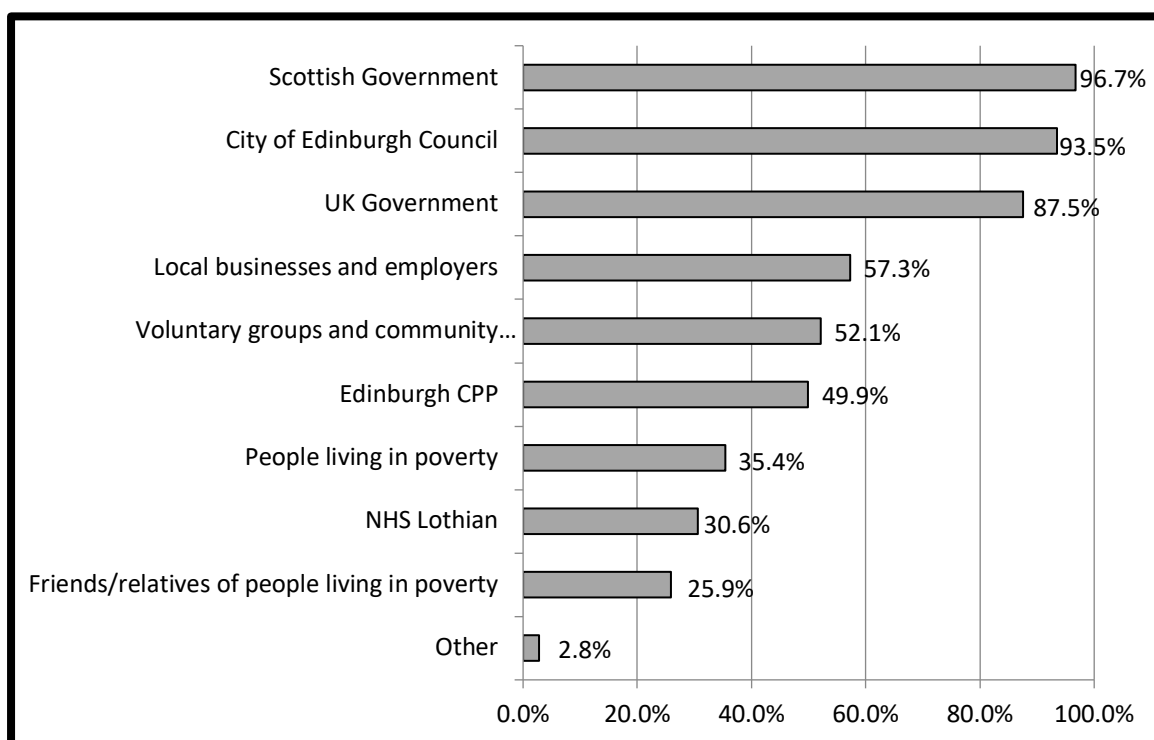


**Figure 9: Main single reason that explains poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**

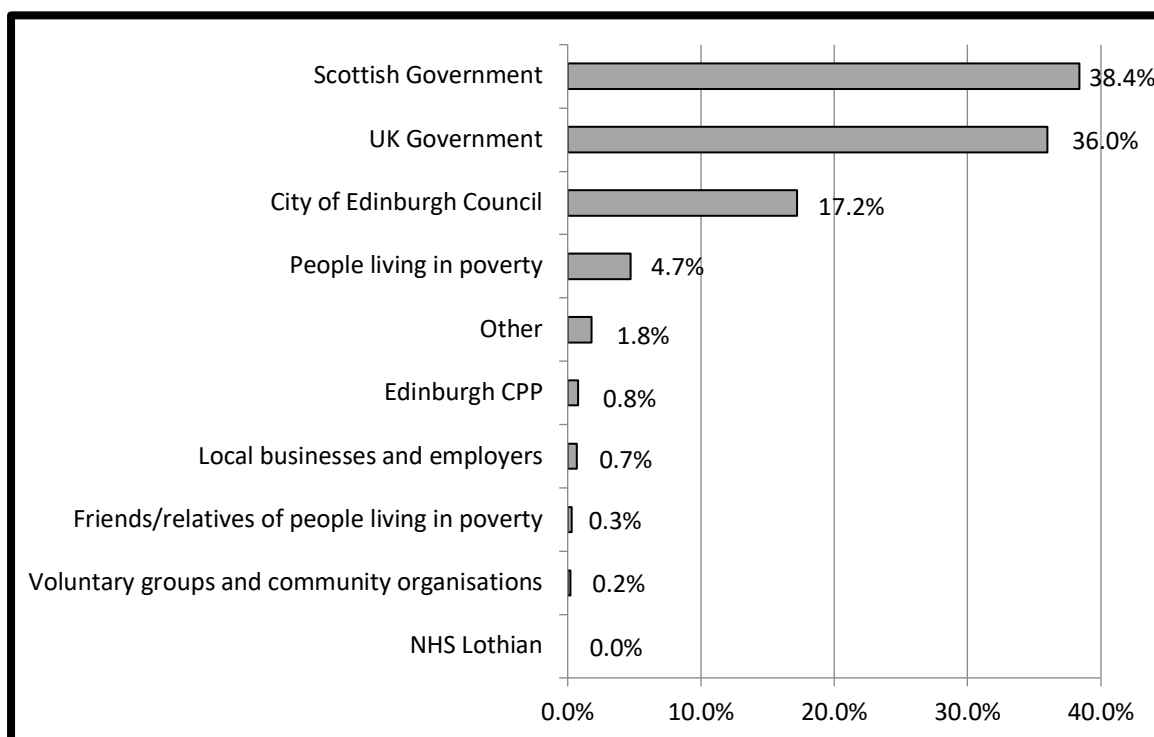




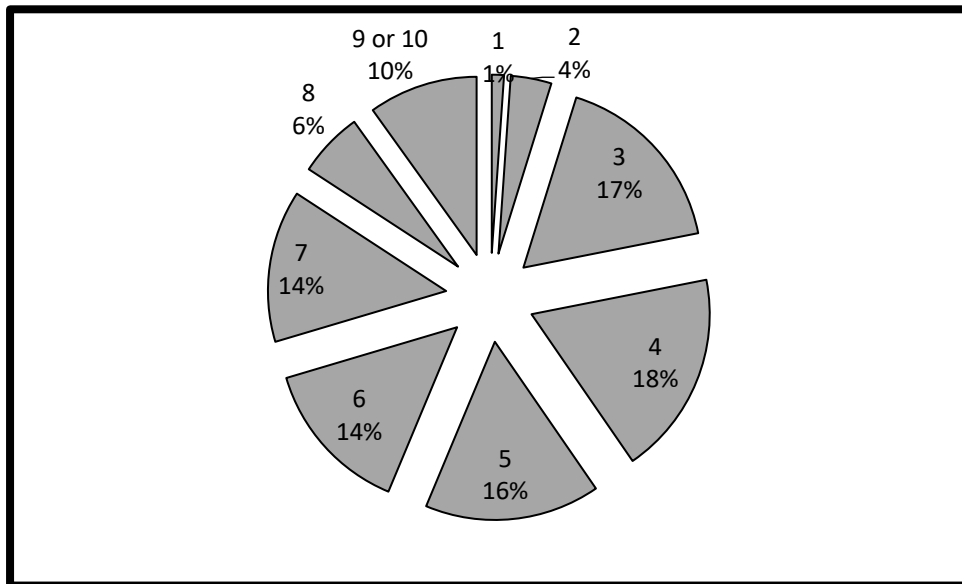
**Figure 10: Responsibilities for tackling poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



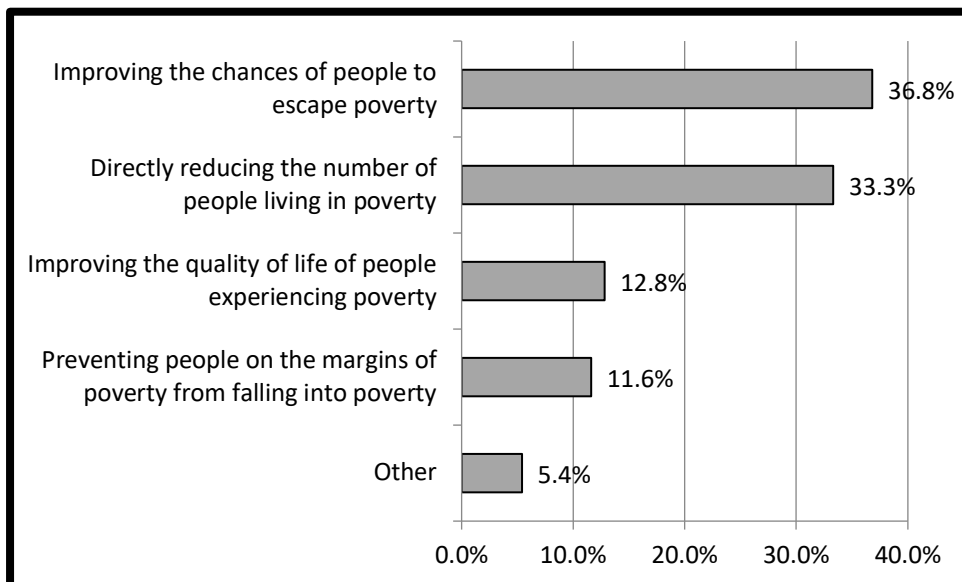
**Figure 11: Main responsibility for tackling poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



**Figure 12: Number of agents with responsibility for tackling poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



**Figure 13: Preference for strategic priority for tackling poverty in Edinburgh, Edinburgh residents 2020**



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# Your Edinburgh in Your Words

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We live in a city with amazing opportunities, experiences and resources. We are surrounded by resourceful, creative people. More needs to be done so that this cultural, social and material wealth is enjoyed by everyone who lives here (and we need more honesty and clarity on the poverty being experienced by people in our communities).

(Woman from Mountcastle, aged 30-39, working in public sector, previously experienced poverty)

Edinburgh is an expensive place to live - people who work in the city should be able to afford to live in the city.

(Woman from Portobello, aged 50-59, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

It is often not an isolated incident or cause that places people in poverty, but a sliding scale of accumulating factors. Some factors make people more vulnerable than others.

(Woman from Balerno, aged 40-49, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

The reasons for an individual's poverty are invariably complex, starting with education difficulties at school, complex personal welfare needs, difficulties accessing benefit payments (e.g. lack of access to free computer time), low skill level leading to low wages. There are so many factors and each case is different such that one cannot really generalise.

(Retired man from Morningside, aged over 65, never experienced poverty)

Rents have increased too much in the twenty years I have been a tenant in the city. Gradually I have moved further out with each lease and by now there really is no difference in rents from the centre to the margins, especially because in the poorer area I live now I have to pay through the nose for electricity and gas via meter keys.

(Woman from Lochend, aged 30-39, not in employment (temporarily sick or injured), currently experiencing poverty)

Transport to the centre of the city can be expensive and time-consuming and can mean that people who live in the poorer periphery of Edinburgh have a lack of opportunities and miss out on the big events that bring the city together.

(Woman from Canongate, aged 30-39, working in the public sector, never experienced poverty)

The lack of affordable housing in Edinburgh is shameful.

(Woman from Morningside, aged 30-39, public sector employee previously experienced poverty)

It's clear to me that housing costs within and even around Edinburgh City have risen dramatically in the last few years - wages are increasingly swallowed by rental costs. This is unsustainable and I feel the effects of this, despite considering myself to have a reasonable wage.

(Woman from Leith, aged 30-39, working in the public sector, previously experienced poverty)

While certain areas are being renovated and sold as lifestyle brands, others languish without even decent waste collection or properly resourced schools. Those that work in Edinburgh are more often forced to live on the outskirts, as property is bought up en masse by unscrupulous landlords or communities eroded by short term lets through Airbnb or student accommodation.

(Man from South Queensferry, aged 30-39, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

There is a lack of access to affordable housing, many people work full time but barely cover the rent and council tax they pay. They cant afford to rent but dont earn enough to buy. Council

housing has approx 15 year waiting list Even mid market rent is unaffordable to single people. I have 3 children so am not allowed to rent a 2 bed house it has to be a 3 bedroom. To rent a 3 bed mid market you need to earn 27000 a year so are pushed into private let's as there are less restrictions on size and earnings.

(Woman from Wester Hailes, aged 40-49, student, previously experienced poverty)

I cannot understand how the city of Edinburgh can afford to pay £43 millions for temporary accommodation but not build its own temporary accommodation, employ well trained and experienced staff and just spends money for temporary accommodation, and in a case giving £6 millions to one provider? I don't understand how is possible, not just Edinburgh city council, but all local authorities in Scotland spend £600 millions for temporary accommodation but cannot build social housing and affordable housing to ensure that people have at least a roof over their head.

(Man from Drylaw, aged 30-39, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Housing cannot be seen as a commodity. They should be as homes. The new City Plan 2030 needs to prioritise housing as homes as part of a wellbeing economy.

(Woman from Edinburgh City Centre, aged 40-49, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Homelessness seems to be more prevalent than ever before, and is certainly a scary symptom of rising poverty throughout Edinburgh.

(Woman from Leith, aged 25-29, working in the private sector, never experienced poverty)

... people in the city have for some years been growing unhappy with inequality, but no-one's been listening.

(Public sector employee with previous experience of poverty)

Edinburgh is one of the richest cities per head in the UK. Where does all the money go? We live in rundown areas where there is litter, bins that have been vandalised and never replaced, no clubs for kids/teens so they run riot on a night out of boredom, street lights take months to repair, parks are damaged and never repaired, kids aren't being given life lessons on right and wrong so the cycle never changes. We are angry that all the money and attention is on the affluent areas.

(Self-employed man, aged 30-39, previously experience poverty)

... discuss publicly the choices made by us all that purposely leave large swathes of our fellow citizens behind.

(Man from Edinburgh North-West, aged 40-49, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

We just are hard working people on low incomes in areas that are forgotten about. Fix our areas then build £50,000,000 venues in the city centre, put more police on our streets before you spend another £200,000,000 on trams most of us in these areas will never use.

(Self-employed man, aged 30-39, previously experienced poverty)

City of Edinburgh council must ensure that equity is a priority in our city and focus on nurturing our disadvantaged youth in a realistic way not just persist in reinventing initiatives which do not change life long goals and aspirations. Make the festivals about OUR young people. Have them in the summer holidays so OUR young people can meet authors and actors. Make them a priority. It's that simple.

(Woman from Dalry, aged 40-49, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Edinburgh is a wealthy City. We can take action to redistribute income and wealth locally.

(Retired man from Gracemount, aged over 65, previous experience of poverty)

There is a feeling that the local authority are more concerned about the needs of visitors basically profit over people.

(Woman from Edinburgh South-West, aged 50-59, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

It feels that the city is moving towards becoming even less accessible to people with less money ... I hate the trend that prioritised public space for people with money (Xmas markets, closing parks for private events, st James centre) and hope to live in a kinder, less profit driven and more inclusive city!

(Woman from Leith, aged 30-39, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

I work as a Pupil support assistant in mainstream school but do the job of an additional needs assistant but my wages does not reflect this however even their wages does not reflect the job they are expected to do daily. We are so poorly paid that tax credits top up our wages, I wish so much that I didn't have to claim this as I work so hard everyday.

(Woman from Gilmerton, aged 30-39, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Zero hours contracts should be banned as they leave people like my son in a very vulnerable position moving from agency to agency between construction companies with nobody willing even to give a single paragraph reference.

(Man from Gilmerton, aged 50-59, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

... concerted effort to engage employers to support and incorporate Fair Work practices and make the Scottish Business Pledge commitments, in particular the elements around the real Living Wage, providing sufficient hours of work and fair contracts.

(Woman from Leith, aged 20-24, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

The benefits towards breakfast and afterschool clubs is another all or nothing system. A parent gets a slight salary increase which tips them out of the eligibility bracket, they end up with less money per month, "proving" that it doesn't pay to work sometimes!

(Woman from Gracemount, aged 40-49, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

... budgets continue to be reduced and staff in critical areas depleted. I believe things are worst now because of these cuts and it situation is worsening.

(Woman from Leith, aged 60-64, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

I feel there's been a lack of transparency over the impact of year on year cuts to Council services - we need to stop calling them efficiency savings, this suggests the issue is just that the system isn't good enough when the issue is that we don't have the money to deliver the level of support and services needed for everyone to flourish in our society. The Council need to be more direct about how our services and society are underfunded and under resourced.

(Woman from Mountcastle, aged 30-39, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

I worked in Housing Management for over 25 years and my experience is that the introduction of Welfare Reform has affected all households who need help. and created an increased level of poverty. The system is extremely cruel and complex. Before the introduction of Welfare Reform my colleagues didn't refer people to food banks and school uniform banks. I don't like living in a society of such inequalities and I retired from my job as I felt I was essentially implementing cruel UK govt. policies. I did meet many people living in abject poverty, it was very upsetting to meet families with nothing.

(Retired woman from Morningside, aged 60-64, previous experience of poverty)

As a GP in *[well-known deprived area in Edinburgh]* and former resident of Wester Hailes I have encountered many people struggling to get by on ESA and similar basic benefits. There is no financial headroom to manage unexpected costs or benefit sanctions.

(Woman from Juniper Green, aged 30-39, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Those who have a reasonable income need to pay more tax and for this to be distributed in a way that promotes Wellbeing rather than simply economic growth.

(Retired man from Morningside, aged over 65, never experienced poverty)

Anyone can have a change in life circumstances that plunge them into poverty.

(Woman from Portobello, aged over 65, public sector employee)

... we need more honesty and clarity on the poverty being experienced by people in our communities.

(Woman from Mountcastle, aged 30-39, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Preconceived ideas must be challenged. Poverty is not just about beggars in the street; it's the single parent trying to care for their child on part time wages, it's the family who's breadwinners are in low paid work or unemployed, it's 100's of variations that people just don't know or think about. If widely known maybe a more proactive role from the public, local authority & government would be forthcoming to resolve this problem.

(Man from Leith, aged 50-59, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Very negative mindset among poorest in Edinburgh. Need Edinburgh city to make them feel like they belong in the city.

(Self-employed woman from Ferniehill, aged 40-49, current and previous experience of poverty, mixed or multiple ethnic background)

I have worked in Niddrie/Craigmillar over a number of years and it is at its worst at the moment. I work in a school and we are struggling to feed and home families.

(Woman, aged 30-39, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Compare somewhere like Gifford to similar sized housing scheme within Wester Hailes and compare how well served Gifford is in terms of community assets and how little residents of some housing schemes actually have by comparison. The number of children at risk of holiday hunger in Wester Hailes is shocking.

(Man from Longstone, aged 40-49, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

It is important to identify that people experience poverty in all areas of Edinburgh and not just the traditionally regarded "poor areas". Families experiencing poverty in "so called affluent areas" can have difficulty accessing help and support as there is no infrastructure in these areas to tackle poverty or even support individuals and families. The difficulty in these areas can be to identify those affected eg property rich cash poor. It can be difficult for people to stand up and be counted as it is not the norm amongst their peers. Whilst I accept that particular areas deserve to receive the majority of the support it is important that help and support is available to ALL people in Edinburgh experiencing poverty.

(Retired man from Wester Broom, aged over 65, never experienced poverty)

For me, poverty is a symptom rather than the actual source issue. The source issue is individual social responsibility, or rather the lack thereof.

(Man from Drylaw, aged 30-39, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Ending poverty in Edinburgh will require different actions from different groups.

(Woman, aged 30-39, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Success out of poverty is meaningful when people are provided an opportunity to do it for themselves. This will only happen for the majority if everyone works together - community,

families, individuals, local authority, churches, local groups and government. Providing people with hope is what I believe can transform Edinburgh.

(Woman, aged 30-39, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Engage employers in a movement to end poverty in Edinburgh by working with chosen employability intermediaries to make opportunities available and working with employability agencies and government agencies to enhance their skills in employment to enhance their earnings potential.

(Man, aged 50-59, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Empower grassroots organisations with easy to access/ no jumping through hoops, simple one page application forms that can be done on any device for small grants up to £5k.

(Self-employed woman from Edinburgh South, aged 30-39, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Let's lift red tape in the city, let's build projects like the Change Center (David Duke MBE), let's listen to people who have been there- let's stop telling people what they should do and how they should spend their money. Let's take radical steps and shout about the even more radical change.

(Self-employed woman from Edinburgh South, aged 30-39, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

I know a number of people who have become debt free by accessing a good debt counselling service such as Christians Against Poverty.

(Retired woman from Roseburn, aged over 65, never experienced poverty)

There are a number of well meaning organisations that have set up to help:- Food Banks, Debt Advice, Welfare Advice etc. However, there is a lack of a coordinated approach and this creates duplication of effort. An Edinburgh ADVICE Network should be set up to coordinate the approach.....If there is already one in existence then I don't know about it, which means it's not coordinated.

(Man from Comley Bank, aged 60-64, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Decisions about services that improve quality of life for people experiencing poverty should be made with participation of people who are experiencing poverty.

(Woman from Lochend, aged 30-39, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

At the heart of any anti-poverty strategy must be the value of respect - that definitions of success are not imposed on those grappling with poverty and the journeys we encourage folk to take are ones they design and we support - this is not something we fix in others but we help create the context for folk in poverty to choose how best to fix for themselves.

(Man from Restalrig, aged 50-59, third sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Edinburgh Council needs to co-produce services with the people most affected by services. That is not just a tick box, leading question consultation online, this is in-depth face to face development sessions that have more weighting than the industry leads of Edinburgh that get disproportionate access to decision makers to frame the agenda in their commercial interest, over the needs of communities.

(Woman from Edinburgh City Centre, aged 40-49, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

Edinburgh Council continues to play the biggest part working in the front line of poverty, and the poverty of aspiration. I'm aware of the policy of positive preventative measures to de-escalate, avert, improve the lives of the most marginalised in the community.

(Man from Portobello, aged 50-59, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

The Council has the ability to lead the way by investing in services that can lift people out of poverty and prevent people falling into poverty. Improve the output from schools so that future generations have opportunities and aspirations.

(Man from Leith, aged 50-59, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Problem is there is little trust in Edinburgh Council that they would use such funding appropriately. The culture in Government and local authorities need to change too. There needs to be more leading by example, too much waste on un-necessary purchases and too much time spend in meetings rather than taking action.

(Woman, aged 40-49, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

The Council can help support the creation of meaningful and worthwhile jobs; do better at preventing homelessness; improve how homeless people are treated when they are in the system; improve drug and alcohol services; improve mental health services; ensure landlords adhere to best practice with regard security of tenure. Local partners are all responsible for tackling poverty and the discriminating words and actions that perpetuate poverty. The Council has the ability to lead the way by investing in services that can lift people out of poverty and prevent people falling into poverty. Improve the output from schools so that future generations have opportunities and aspirations.

(Man from Leith, aged 50-59, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

Poverty initiatives should focus on progressive policies that reduce costs for low income residents in the city including childcare; encourage creation of sustainable good quality jobs and support people facing barrier to employment to overcome them and protecting and strengthening investment in essential services that provide a safety net for people in crisis including homelessness services and crisis payments for destitute migrants with no recourse to public funds.

(Woman from Lochend, aged 30-39, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

New policies and spending decisions could be assessed against poverty reduction strategy and spending priorities shifted to ensure limited resources are targeted at measures that will reduce poverty. Decisions about services that improve quality of life for people experiencing poverty should be made with participation of people who are experiencing poverty.

(Woman from Lochend, aged 30-39, public sector employee, never experienced poverty)

I believe that Edinburgh is the ideal location to attempt a more radical approach that: Engages individuals and families experiencing poverty creating a relationship of trust that explores immediate short term, medium term and long term solutions to lift them out of poverty and build their capacity and resilience to remain out of poverty case managing people through the various support and inputs they require with ONE continuous relationship that supports them towards their long term aspiration.

(Man, aged 50-59, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

People need to feel they belong rather than being on the fringes of society.

(Woman from SW Edinburgh, aged 50-59, private sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

If we promote kindness and strive for a more caring society, perhaps it will affect voting and the right people will get in to power and change the policies. Kindness might sound a bit 'meh' but that is what I think changes people. Thanks for allowing me to say my peace.

(Woman, aged 40-49, third sector employee, previously experienced poverty)

I feel Edinburgh is a very divided place ... For so long as we have ... rough sleepers, ... and Edinburgh citizens feeling they have no hope of anything better, we need to do all we can to speed the structural changes to end inequality.

(Woman from Mountcastle, aged 30-39, public sector employee, previously experienced poverty)